



Thursday, April 3, 2014

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Connecticut Hospitals Meet With Legislators at the Capitol



On April 2, Connecticut hospital nurses, doctors, volunteers, and hospital leaders met with legislators at the Legislative Office Building (LOB) to continue their advocacy on behalf of the communities hospitals serve.

During meetings with legislators, hospitals discussed priorities including the hospital-raised bill [SB 407, An Act Concerning A Hospital Quality Of Care Initiative](#). This bill, which would modernize and update the way in which care is provided and hospitals are reimbursed in the state's Medicaid program, has been referred to the Appropriations Committee.

Hospitals also discussed the need to phase out the hospital tax, which takes \$336 million from hospitals over the biennium. To date, the tax has caused 1,400 jobs to be eliminated in hospitals across Connecticut and has led to reductions in services and investments in technology and infrastructure.

Also in legislative meetings, hospitals discussed their opposition to [HB 5583, An Act Concerning The Payment Of Real Property Taxes By Certain Institutions Of Higher Learning And Hospital Facilities](#). This bill would make certain private institutions of higher education and hospitals liable for the payment of real property taxes and provide a mechanism for the state to provide grants to reimburse institutions and hospitals for such payments. The grants would only reimburse a fraction of the payments.

Other major issues faced by hospitals include two measures concerning hospital conversions, [SB 460, An Act Concerning Hospital Conversions And Other Matters Affecting Hospitals](#), and [HB 5257, An Act Concerning Hospital Employees And Hospital Conversions](#). As drafted, these two bills create an overly burdensome regulatory environment that will prevent hospitals and healthcare systems from creating strategic partnerships that allow them to adapt and grow in this new and rapidly changing healthcare environment. In addition to discussing the subject of hospital conversions in meetings with legislators, Bristol Hospital held a press conference with leaders from Tenet Healthcare Corporation to discuss its need to form a strategic partnership to ensure the hospital's future. As well, the Central Connecticut Chambers of Commerce publicly endorsed Bristol Hospital's deal with Tenet and will be advocating for the transaction.

Connecticut hospitals will hold a second advocacy day later this month.



Final Committees Reach Reporting Deadline: Legislative Action Now Shifts to the Capitol



This week, the Judiciary, Appropriations, and Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committees met their Joint Favorable (JF) Deadlines. The JF Deadline is the day by which each committee must report out bills or resolutions for further consideration by other committees or the full General Assembly. Any legislative proposals originally referred to these committees and not reported on by their JF Deadline are essentially dead for the session and will need to be refiled for the 2015 Legislative Session. Because all JF Deadlines have been met, bills now under consideration by the various legislative committees are referrals, having been approved by one or more legislative committees.

During the days prior to reaching their JF deadlines, the Appropriations and Finance Committees released their budget bills, which contained no changes to the Governor's budget proposals as they relate to hospital funding and the hospital tax.

With all legislative committees meeting their JF Deadlines, the focus of legislative activity will now shift from the Legislative Office Building (LOB) to the Connecticut State Capitol for the final five weeks of the 2014 Legislative Session.

Snow Can't Keep Hospital Staff From Safety Training



On March 31, nearly 200 people braved a spring snowstorm to attend leadership training in high reliability science. A day later, nearly 100 participants took part in a patient safety session to train hospital staff on how to train other hospital staff members in safety behaviors.

Hospital CEOs are among those dedicated to training all staff members in high reliability safety behaviors. To date, more than 10,000 hospital staff and physicians have been trained as part of Connecticut hospitals' statewide initiative to become high reliability organizations, organizations in high risk fields that strive to perform safely, with no accidents, 100 percent of the time.

Connecticut hospitals launched the safety initiative in 2010. This first-in-the-nation program is not only changing the way we think about safety, it is saving lives.



Dan DeBarba, Jr., President and CEO, Norwalk Hospital

Chad Wable, President and CEO, Saint Mary's Hospital

Edward Berns, Esq., Vice President, Legal Affairs, Griffin Hospital

Senior hospital leaders participating in the session

Roydell Weeks, Director, Envir Services, Greenwich Hospital, Chiarandini, Director, Human Resources, Greenwich Hospital

Connecticut Hospitals Participate in National Study on Healthcare-Associated Infections



Thirteen Connecticut hospitals participated in a study featured in an article published in the March 27 issue of the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

The study, published in the article "Multistate Point-Prevalence Survey of Health Care-Associated Infections," involved a survey conducted in 183 hospitals in 10 states, using data from 2011, to determine the prevalence of healthcare-associated infections in acute care hospitals and generate estimates of the national burden of healthcare-associated infections.

Researchers found that four percent of patients experienced one or more healthcare-associated infections. The most common infections were pneumonia, surgical-site infections, and gastrointestinal infections. *Clostridium difficile* was the most commonly reported pathogen. Device-associated infections accounted for 25.6% of such infections. The report recommended that public health surveillance and prevention activities should continue to address *Clostridium difficile* infections and, as device- and procedure-associated infections decrease, consideration should be given to expanding surveillance and prevention activities to include other healthcare-associated infections.

Subscribers can access the article [here](#).

Hospital Healthcare Workers Most Likely to be Vaccinated



Early national reports of flu vaccination by healthcare personnel indicate that 62.9% of healthcare personnel were vaccinated during the 2013-2014 flu season. By work setting, flu vaccination coverage was highest among healthcare personnel working in hospitals. By occupation, vaccination was highest among pharmacists, physicians, nurses, nurse practitioners/physician assistants, and other clinical professionals.

Twenty-two hospitals across the state have implemented a mandatory flu vaccination policy. In 2011, the CHA Board adopted a [statewide policy](#) endorsing mandatory influenza vaccination for hospital personnel as part of CHA hospitals' commitment to patient safety.

Meanwhile, the Connecticut Department of Public Health continues to classify the seasonal flu as widespread in Connecticut, as of the week ending March 22. A total of 4,538 people across the state have been diagnosed with the flu this year, and there have been 25 flu-associated deaths of people over the age of 30.

Cisco Leader to Discuss the Future of Healthcare IT at CHA



On Friday, April 11, 2014, Carlos Dominguez, Senior Vice President, Office of the Chairman and CEO, Cisco, will deliver the keynote address at CHA's Cisco Healthcare IT Conference. Mr. Dominguez will discuss groundbreaking new trends in exponential technologies. His presentation will also include a deep dive into Cisco's roadmap for developing healthcare technologies and a discussion of what these technology advancements will mean to your organization.

Mr. Dominguez will be joined by Edward Kim, Collaboration Systems Engineer, Healthcare of Cisco, and Todd Wilson, Collaboration Architect, Healthcare of Cisco. These healthcare technology experts will provide interactive presentations on Cisco's Telehealth/Telepresence technologies.

This program is designed for Chief Information Officers and IT professionals—and all those interested in the powerful and wide-ranging impact technology will have on the future of healthcare.

[View Brochure](#) | [Event Registration](#)

Education Updates

HIPAA Privacy and Security Basics

Thursday, April 3, 2014
9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

This program will review the current HIPAA Privacy, Security Rule, and Breach Rules, and will outline new rules and guidance from the Office of Civil Rights, much of which was published after the HITECH rules September 2013 implementation date. Recent enforcement actions and data breach situations will be reviewed. The program information includes strategies for maintaining continuous compliance, a review of business associates rules, and practical tips and solutions for remaining compliant with HIPAA as the transition from paper to EHR accelerates.

Target Audience: The program is designed for compliance professionals, privacy and security officers, chief information officers, risk managers, in-house counsel, and others with responsibilities for HIPAA compliance.

Continuing education credits will be awarded. See the brochure for details.

[View Brochure](#) | [Event Registration](#)

Conflict Management: Engaging the Difficult Employee

Tuesday, April 29, 2014
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

It is clear to almost everyone that conflict is inevitable in life—in our personal lives as well as in the workplace. Different personalities, different work styles, cultural/ethnic norms, and differences in generational mix, all lead to an endless possibility of conflict surfacing at work.

What is not so clear, is the role conflict plays in the process of change and effective team problem solving—both major factors in improving organization performance. How can we recognize and manage the sources and trigger points of conflict? When is conflict healthy—what makes it destructive? How can we reduce or defuse unnecessary conflict? What are the various styles of dealing with conflict, and the risks and benefits of each approach?

Sarah Campbell Arnett, MA, NCC, BC-DMT, one of CHA's most highly rated leadership development speakers, will present this full-day, interactive program, based on best practices in leadership theory. Ms. Arnett will present communication methods and tools for navigating the challenging maze of different personalities and communication styles to better manage conflict.

Continuing education credits will be awarded. See the brochure for details.

[View Brochure](#) | [Event Registration](#)

2014 Corporate Compliance Conference

Wednesday, April 30, 2014
9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Connecticut healthcare professionals, like their colleagues nationwide are being asked to expand their knowledge and skills to respond to unprecedented challenges triggered by healthcare reform—including the ever-changing regulatory compliance landscape.

Please join us for CHA's annual Corporate Compliance Conference, which will address several critical topics including the CMS 2-midnight presumption, documentation issues, and revenue cycle strategies. Additionally, there will be presentations covering physician-owned distributorships, the focus on transparency of industry physician financial relationships or the CMS Physician Payment Sunshine Act, and compliance strategies for both provider and patient health information exchange (HIE) portals. In addition to compliance, legal, and risk professionals, we also invite physicians, HIM, and other healthcare professionals to join us for a comprehensive conference.

Continuing education credits will be awarded.

[View Brochure](#) | [Event Registration](#)

Reducing Surgical Site Infections

Thursday, May 1, 2014

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

CHA will host our partners from Johns Hopkins and several Connecticut best-practice hospitals as part of our ongoing successful effort to reduce surgical site infections. We have seen a steep decrease in our infection rates, but the rest of the country is outpacing us. Attend this session to learn what other things we can do to ensure lower infection rates in our surgical patients. This session is for all hospitals that do surgery; it is not limited to SUSP (surgical unit safety protocol) hospitals.

Please Note: This is a federally funded session; therefore we are required to charge you for any meals that we provide to you on this day. We will bill the hospital.

[Event Registration](#)

HPI Level 3: Train-the-Trainer Session

Friday, May 2, 2014

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

This train-the-trainer session is designed for hospital trainers to learn how to teach the staff safety behaviors and error prevention tools.

[Event Registration](#)

